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15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13,
wherein, during the conversion, the fluid layer breaks up in mutually separate fluid areas which extend between and along the relief pattern, which the fluid areas are then converted into the mutually separate charge transport areas.

16. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an organic electroluminescent device comprising a plurality of independently addressable electroluminescent elements, said method comprising:

providing a patterned first electrode layer comprising a plurality of first electrodes;

providing a relief pattern extending between and along neighboring the first electrodes;

depositing a fluid layer non-selectively in a quantity sufficient to flood both the plurality of first electrodes and the relief pattern, the fluid layer including organic charge transport material or a precursor material thereof;

converting the fluid layer into an organic charge transport layer having mutually separate charge transport areas which are positioned between the electroluminescent layer and the first electrode layer and which are mutually separated along neighboring the first electrodes,

wherein, during the conversion, the fluid layer breaks up in mutually separate fluid areas which extend between and along the relief pattern, which the fluid areas are then converted into the mutually separate charge transport areas;

providing at least one, optionally patterned, electroluminescent layer; and

providing an, optionally patterned, second electrode layer

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Drawings. In the Final Office Action, Examiner Zimmerman approved the proposed drawing corrections illustrated on the proposed substitute drawing sheet filed on April 8, 2003. The Applicant hereby acknowledges Examiner Zimmerman's approval of the aforementioned proposed drawing corrections.

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Claims. In the Final Office Action, Examiner Zimmerman allowed claims 13-16. The Applicant hereby acknowledges Examiner Zimmerman's allowance of claims 13-16, and Examiner Zimmerman's reasons for allowing claims 13-16.

Also in the Final Office Action, Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 7-12 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each rejection as subsequently recited herein:

- A. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

The Applicant has amended claims 10-12 herein to obviate this 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 of claims 10-12. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 is therefore respectfully requested.

- B. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over WO 99/12398 to *Friend*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Zimmerman's remarks concerning the patentability of independent claims 7-9 over *Friend*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Friend*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 7-9, *Friend* must show each and every limitation of independent claim 7 in as complete detail as is contained in independent claim 7. See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §102(e) rejection of claims 7-9, because *Friend* fails to disclose and teaches away from "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes" as recited in independent claim 7.

Specifically, support for this limitation of independent claim 7 is found in FIG. 2 of the present application, which illustrates two (2) rows of a relief pattern 28 extending between neighboring row electrodes 23A, 23B and 23C. As illustrated in

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FIG. 2, a first row relief pattern separates charge transport areas 24D and 24E between neighboring row electrodes 23A and 23B. And, a second row relief pattern separates charge transport areas 24E and 24F between neighboring row electrodes 23A and 23B.

FIG. 2 further illustrates three (3) columns of a relief pattern 28 traversing over row electrodes 23A, 23B and 23C. As illustrated in FIG. 2, a first column relief pattern separates charge transport areas 24A and 24B along row electrode 23A. A second column relief pattern separates charge transport areas 24B and 24C along row electrode 23A. And, a third column relief pattern separates charge transport areas 24C and 24D along row electrode 23A.

As illustrated in FIG. 8, *Friend* discloses a row relief pattern 76 for separating charge transport areas 77 between neighboring row electrodes 74, which is analogous to the rows of relief pattern 28 illustrated in FIG. 2 of the present application. *Friend* however fails to disclose, teach or suggest any columns of relief pattern 76 for separating a charge transport area 77 along each row electrode 74. Thus, *Friend* fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes".

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over *Friend*.

C. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,575,800 to *Koybayashi* et al and Japanese Patent Application Publication 11-74083 to *Koybayashi*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Zimmerman's remarks concerning the patentability of independent claims 7-9 over *Kobayashi*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Kobayashi*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 7-9, *Kobayashi* must show each and every limitation of independent claim 7 in as complete detail as is contained in independent claim 7

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See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §102(e) rejection of claims 7-9, because *Kobayashi* fails to disclose and teaches away from "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes" as recited in independent claim 7.

Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,575,800, *Kobayashi* discloses rows of a relief pattern 4 for separating charge transport areas 5 between neighboring row electrodes 6, which is analogous to the rows of relief pattern 28 illustrated in FIG. 2 of the present application. *Kobayashi* however fails to disclose, teach or suggest any columns of relief pattern 4 for separating charge transport areas 5 along each row electrode 6. Thus, *Kobayashi* fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes".

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over *Kobayashi*.

D. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over EP Patent No. 0 982 974 A1 to *Seki* and WO 99/12369 to *Seki*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Zimmerman's remarks concerning the patentability of independent claims 7-9 over *Seki*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Seki*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §102(a) rejection of claims 7-9, *Seki* must show each and every limitation of independent claim 7 in as complete detail as is contained in independent claim 7. See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §102(a) rejection of claims 7-9, because *Seki* fails to disclose and teaches away from "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes" as recited in independent claim 7.

Specifically, as illustrated in FIG. 1E of EP Patent No. 0 982 974 A1, *Seki* discloses rows of a relief pattern 103 for separating charge transport areas 107 between neighboring row electrodes 101, which is analogous to the rows of relief pattern 28 illustrated in FIG. 2 of the present application. *Seki* however fails to

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disclose, teach or suggest any columns of relief pattern 103 for separating a charge transport area 107 along each row electrode 101. Thus, *Seki* fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a relief pattern separating said charge transport areas along each first electrode and between neighboring said first electrodes".

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over *Seki*.

E. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/12398 to *Friend* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,704 of *Shi et al.*

Claims 10-12 depend from independent claim 7. Therefore, dependent claims 10-12 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 10-12 are allowable over *Friend* in view of *Shi* for at least the same reason as set forth herein with respect to independent claim 7 being allowable over *Friend*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Friend* in view of *Shi* is therefore respectfully requested.

F. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent no. 6,575,800 to *Kobayashi et al* to *Kobayashi* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,704 of *Shi et al.*

Claims 10-12 depend from independent claim 7. Therefore, dependent claims 10-12 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 10-12 are allowable over *Kobayashi* in view of *Shi* for at least the same reason as set forth herein with respect to independent claim 7 being allowable over *Kobayashi*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kobayashi* in view of *Shi* is therefore respectfully requested.

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G. Examiner Zimmerman rejected pending claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 99/12395 to *Seki et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,977,704 of *Shi et al.*

Claims 10-12 depend from independent claim 7. Therefore, dependent claims 10-12 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 10-12 are allowable over *Seki* in view of *Shi* for at least the same reason as set forth herein with respect to independent claim 7 being allowable over *Seki*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Seki* in view of *Shi* is therefore respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner Zimmerman withdraw the rejections of claims 7-12, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Zimmerman is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

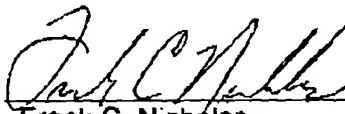
Dated: September 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,
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